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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 12, 2005**

Veterans' Memorial Plaza, sometimes called Obelisk Square will be re-dedicated on May 6, at 11AM according to J. Stewart Goodwin, Executive Director, Indiana War Memorial Commission. Mr. Thomas Applegate, State Director of Veterans Affairs will officiate the Ceremony. The Public is invited to attend. Veterans' Memorial Plaza was created to honor all of the United States' service men and women is located one block north of the Indiana War Memorial and is part of a five block complex honoring Hoosier Veterans. It has been closed for over a year while undergoing full restoration.

Veterans' Memorial Plaza was first dedicated in 1930. The central obelisk and fountain standing in the plaza's center remains but those who attended that first dedication would not recognize the park today. As first built, the plaza was simply a block-wide square concrete pad with the Obelisk Fountain in the center. Many people mistook the space as a parking lot.

In the 1970s the Plaza was re-landscaped to give it a park-like appearance, with trees, flowerbeds and benches. 50 flagpoles were placed along North Street to honor the 50 states and those who had served. The new plaza was rededicated during the Bi-Centennial in 1976.

By 2000 the park was again in need of restoration. The historic fountain was beginning to leak and needed masonry restoration. Brick pathways and flowerbeds were crumbling. The original flagpoles were proving a maintenance nightmare and many of the trees were beginning to die.

With all of block's identified needs; the decision was made to fully restore the plaza and the fountain. A grant from Housing and Urban Development (HUD) sponsored by Congresswoman Julia Carson provided the initial funding.

The 1970s placement of flagpoles had broken the original view between the Indiana War Memorial and the Cenotaph. That original view has now been restored. The 50 state flags have been kept but are now broken into two sections. Twenty-five flags are on the west side and the other twenty-five are placed on the east side of the park.

The Indiana War Memorial Plaza including Veterans' Memorial Plaza has been designated a National Historic Landmark. It is the highest honor given by Congress in its listing of historic properties.

The dedication will begin at 11AM in Veteran's Memorial Plaza. The plaza is across Michigan Street from the Indiana War Memorial entrance at 50 East Michigan. Admission is free.

**WHAT: Rededication of Veterans' Memorial Plaza**

**WHEN:**        **Friday, May 6, 2005 at 11AM**

**WHERE:**      **Veterans' Memorial Plaza**

**COST:**        **Free.**

**The Indiana War Memorial** entrance is located at 50 East Michigan. Free weekend and after 6:00 p.m. parking all around block. The building is accessible for those with disabilities.

Museum COST: Admission is free.

For further information contact: 317-232-7615

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